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Turncoat Thinking

Nine years spent with the Chinese Communists apparently does very little for a man's thinking apparatus. At least, there is no indication of improvement on the part of Lowell D. Skinner, the American soldier who chose to live in China after his release from a Korean War prison camp.

Now that he is back in this country, Mr. Skinner is unable to understand why he was dishonorably discharged from the Army. Certainly he cannot seriously believe he could renounce his allegiance and, when it met his fancy, expect to conveniently take up his old life as if nothing had happened. If he does, then he should consult with the other prisoners of war and see whether they think a dishonorable discharge was too severe.

Mr. Skinner was a guest on a rather strange television show which also included Allen W. Dulles, the former Central Intelligence Agency chief. The two were interviewed on tape at different times. While making it clear he was not defending the ex-GI, Mr. Dulles took a crack at American schools for leaving such men as Mr. Skinner unprepared to resist the blandishments of Communist indoctrinators.

Mr. Dulles, it seems to us, was way off the beam. It would be absurd to leave to the schools the job of teaching prospective soldiers the meaning of communism. Every man and woman in the armed services should be taught, as part of their basic training, the real facts of Communist life.

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